

**Listing and Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace the claims as published.

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~(300)~~ for performing digital recording and playback, comprising steps of:  
enabling a user to record digital signals onto a digital storage medium;  
receiving a password from said user ~~(325, 330)~~;  
storing said password in at least one unreserved data field on said digital storage medium, wherein said at least one unreserved data field is included in a first presentation sequence for said recorded digital signals ~~(335)~~; and  
requiring said password to be input before playing back said recorded digital signals.
2. (Currently Amended) The method ~~(300)~~ of claim 1, wherein said digital storage medium is a DVD.
3. (Currently Amended) The method ~~(300)~~ of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing menu data representing a password menu screen on said digital storage medium ~~(340)~~.
4. (Currently Amended) The method ~~(300)~~ of claim 3, wherein said menu data is stored in a second presentation sequence different from said first presentation sequence.
5. (Currently Amended) The method ~~(300)~~ of claim 4, wherein said first and second presentation sequences represent different program chains.
6. (Currently Amended) The method ~~(300)~~ of claim 3, further comprising the step of storing at least one command on said digital storage medium that enables display of said password menu screen ~~(345)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~(300)~~ of claim 6, wherein said password menu screen is displayed responsive to a user's attempt to playback said recorded digital signals.

8. (Currently Amended) A digital recording and playback apparatus ~~(100)~~, comprising:

interface means ~~(70)~~ for interfacing said digital recording and playback apparatus ~~(100)~~ with a digital storage medium ~~(120)~~; and

control means ~~(40)~~ for enabling a user to record digital signals onto said digital storage medium ~~(120)~~, receiving a password from said user, and causing said password to be stored in at least one unreserved data field on said digital storage medium ~~(120)~~, wherein said at least one unreserved data field is included in a first presentation sequence for said recorded digital signals.

9. (Currently Amended) The digital recording and playback apparatus ~~(100)~~ of claim 8, wherein said digital storage medium ~~(120)~~ is a DVD.

10. (Currently Amended) The digital recording and playback apparatus ~~(100)~~ of claim 8, wherein said control means ~~(40)~~ further causes menu data representing a password menu screen to be stored on said digital storage medium ~~(120)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The digital recording and playback apparatus ~~(100)~~ of claim 10, wherein said menu data is stored in a second presentation sequence different from said first presentation sequence.

12. (Currently Amended) The digital recording and playback apparatus ~~(100)~~ of claim 11, wherein said first and second presentation sequences represent different program chains.

13. (Currently Amended) The digital recording and playback apparatus ~~(100)~~ of claim 10, wherein said control means ~~(40)~~ further causes at least one command that enables display of said password menu screen to be stored on said digital storage medium ~~(120)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The digital recording and playback apparatus ~~(100)~~ of claim 13, wherein said control means ~~(40)~~ enables display of said password menu screen responsive to a user's attempt to playback said recorded digital signals.

15. (Currently Amended) The digital recording and playback apparatus ~~(100)~~ of claim 14, wherein said control means ~~(40)~~ further requires said password to be input responsive to said password menu screen before playing back said recorded digital signals.

16. (Currently Amended) A digital storage medium ~~(120)~~, comprising:  
a plurality of reserved data fields; and  
a plurality of unreserved data fields and a first presentation sequence for digital signals recorded by a user; and

wherein at least one of said unreserved data fields is stored a user-assigned password for said recorded digital signals, said first presentation sequence includes said at least one of said unreserved data field, and input of said user-assigned password is required before playing back said recorded digital signals.

17. (Currently Amended) The digital storage medium ~~(120)~~ of claim 16, wherein said digital storage medium ~~(120)~~ is a DVD.

18. (Currently Amended) The digital storage medium ~~(120)~~ of claim 16, further comprising a second presentation sequence for a password menu screen.

19. (Currently Amended) The digital storage medium ~~(120)~~ of claim 18, wherein said first and second presentation sequences represent different program chains.

20. (Currently Amended) The digital storage medium ~~(120)~~ of claim 18, wherein said password menu screen prompts input of said password and is displayed responsive to an attempt to playback said recorded digital signals.